changes to be introduced to ensure that the interests of contract workers are protected, and they are also provided with a social security cover;

(c) if so, whether recommendations of Planning Commission has been accepted; and

(d) the steps being considered to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has not yet completed its exercise on Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Compensation of retrenched workers

2547. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give compensation to retrenched workers due to liberalisation and privatisation policy;

(b) if so, the mode *of* compensation calculation and wherefrom this expenditure would be met; and

(c) the number of workers expected to be covered under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Provisions already exist under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for compensation to every worker employed in an industry, who has been in continuous service for not less than one year under an employer, in the event of retrenchment. As per the Act, the compensation, to be paid by the employer; should be equivalent to fifteen days' average pay for every completed year of continuous service or any part thereof in excess of six months.

The Government has also allowed Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) to introduce Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) with attractive compensation for its employees in the event of manpower rationalisation.